adviser(s). Accordingly, SBI Caps have been appointed as Consultant.

Regularisation of Deputy Directors

*219. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 out of 50 Deputy Directors (Officials Languages) in the Department of Official language are working on ad hoc basis for the last two years and no DPC has been conducted therefor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to hold DPC to regularise the services of DD (OL) who at present are working on ad hoc basis?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) At present 17 posts of Deputy Directors of Official Language Service have been filled up by making ad-hoc promotions. Out of these, 6 officers were promoted in 1996-97 and 11 were promoted on ad-hoc basis during 1997-98.

A proposal for convening the meeting of DPC for filling up the vacancies of Deputy Director for the year 1996-97, was sent to U.P.S.C. They sought some clarification regarding the vacancies. In the meantime vacancies for the year 1997-98 have also become available. On the suggestions of U.P.S.C. the vacancies for the year 1996-97, have been treated as the vacancies for the year 1997-98. After obtaining relaxation in Rules from the Deptt. of Personnel and Training the proposal for convening the D.P.C. meeting for filling up these posts on regular basis has sicne been forwarded to U.P.S.C.

Ethnic Conflicts in Assam

*220. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed in Assam upto 15th of May, 1998 as a result of ethnic conflict between Bodos and others;

(b) what steps Government have taken to protect the various tribal groups in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) From the year 1996 upto 15th May, 1998, 326 persons reportedly lost their lives in ethnic conflict between Bodos and others in Assam

(b) and (c) For the protection of the hill tribes of Assam, two Autonomous Councils have been established under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. These are the Karbi Anglong and the North Cachar Autonomous Councils.

Constitutional safeguards have been provided for the protection of culture, customs, etc. of the hill tribes and also for managing the lands and forests and major development activities within their jurisdiction.

In addition, the State Government have also set up Autonomous Councils for protecting tribal groups like Mihings, Rabhas and Tiwas. The Bodos have also been protected by the establishment of the Bodoland Autonomous Council through an Act of the State Legislature in 1993.

To control ethnic conflicts between Bodos and others especially in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts, the State Government have set up pickets in sensitive areas and deployed additional police, para-military and military forces in the affected areas. The State Government has set up relief camps and is providing relief materials including food. The State Government has also

announced payment of Rs. 1 lakh to next of kith and kin of each of the deceased and Rs. 10,000/- to each family whose houses have been burnt down. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 25 crores for rehabilitation of persons affected by the ethnic violence.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRE QUESTIONS

मझगांव डॉक द्वारा क्रय आदेश

1509. श्री हरमोहन सिंह यादव:
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मझगांव डॉक लिमिटेड को नौसेना अथवा किसी अन्य देश से पनडुब्बी निर्माण हेतु कोई क्रय आदेश प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है; और

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान अब तक किन-किन क्रेताओं से कितने क्रय आदेश प्राप्त हुए हैं?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीज): (क) से (ग) भारतीय नौसेना से प्राप्त आर्डर के आधार पर मझगांव डॉक लिमिटेड ने विगत में दो पनडुब्बियों का निर्माण किया है। भारतीय नौसेना ने दो पनडुब्बियों के निर्माण के लिए मझगांव डाक लिमिटेड को फरवरी 1997 में एक आशय पत्र भेजा है। पनडुब्बियों के निर्माण के लिए किसी भी अन्य देश ने मझगांव डॉक लिमिटेड को कोई आर्डर नहीं दिया है।

Down-sizing the Army

1510. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence modernisation programmes are facing resource crunch due to lack of funds;

(b) whether it has been decided to cut troop strength in the Army by 50,000 to save money; and

(c) if so, how the operational efficiency in Army will be maintained by down-sizing the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Defence modernisation programme is an ongoing process within the parameters of available resouces and defence priorities. Funds are made available for prioritised defence modernisation programmes from within the allocated budget for this purpose.

(b) It is planned to cut down the troop strength in the Army by about 50,000 personnel in a phased manner. The financial savings accruing from this process will help offset in part of costs of defence modernisation programmes.

(c) The Government is committed to maintain operational efficiency in the Army by optimal utilisation of all available human and material resources.

'Kaveri' engines for 'LCA'

1511. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a defence project for making 'Kaveri' engines for the Light Combat Aircraft has reached an advanced stage of development and two such engines are proposed to be taken to Russia for final testing;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the extent to which it would be an import substitution?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Kaveri project envisages development of a state-of-the-art engine incorporating flat rated design concept and advanced electronic fuel control system. Three prototypes have been fabricated and are undergoing extensive evaluation.

(c) On successful completion, the Country would not need to import this class of engines.